

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

January 23, 2013

[In these minutes: Campus safety overview, summary discussion of student financial literacy, future agenda items.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

**PRESENT:** Joyce Holl (co-chair), Brandee Polson (co-chair), Lauren Beach, Thomas Bilder, Marcus Guith, Peter Haeg, Carlos Torelli, Amelious Whyte

**OTHERS:** Gabriele Schmiegel

**GUESTS:** Gregory Hestness, Assistant Vice President and Police Chief, Department of Public Safety

**REGRETS:** Lisa Erwin, Sam Ketchum, Katie Roehl, Meghan Sable, Michael Stebleton, Michael Vargas, Kendre Turonie

Ms. Polson convened the meeting, welcomed those present, and introduced guest speaker, Chief Gregory Hestness, assistant vice president and police chief, Department of Public Safety.

### **CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY OVERVIEW**

Chief Hestness provided a PowerPoint that aided his presentation of campus public safety. He stated that 2012 was statistically a good year in terms of campus safety. He addressed the constant concern of shootings as a result of academic retaliation, although infrequent, they have a high impact.

PowerPoint slides displayed information on the following topics:

- University Services Organization Chart
- New Boss: Vice President for University Services Pam Wheelock
  - Chief Hestness added that Vice President Wheelock has unique prior experience that will make her especially valuable with future challenges such as Vikings football games that will be held in the University's stadium.
- Department of Public Safety – Organization Chart
  - He explained that the Department of Public Safety is broken into four segments: Police Department, Emergency Management, Central Security, and the Emergency Communication Center.
  - Enterprise-wide security improvements have led to a decline in property crimes and thefts.

- Public Safety Emergency Communication Center: 9-1-1 Dispatch and Monitoring combined for Efficiency and Effectiveness
  - The objective was to reduce cost and improve effectiveness, increase supervision, and improve the working environment.
- New PSECC Manager: Jeff Lessard
  - Chief Hestness noted that Mr. Lessard has done an exemplary job of hiring and training new staff and integrating services.
- PSECC: 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Services
  - 9-1-1 calls are up to 60% cellular.
- Photo: Matthew Pengra: Attempt abduction of a student at Wilson Library: 10/1/2007
  - The slide displayed a photo that was taken by a security camera that aided in the arrest of a man that attempted to abduct a student. The student escaped and the man was taken into custody and convicted of false imprisonment.
- Department of Emergency Management (System-wide responsibility)
  - Chief Hestness highlighted some of their responsibilities such as: emergency planning for major events, setting up the operations center at events, and conducting trainings.
- New Director of Emergency Management: Lisa Dressler
  - Chief Hestness commented that Ms. Dressler has extensive experience with emergency management for the City of Minneapolis and FEMA.
- University of Minnesota Emergency Medical Services: UMEMS
  - One segment of UMEMS consists of 50 students that are trained up to the EMT basic level and staff the emergency room at TCF and major public events.
- University of Minnesota Police Department (Twin Cities Campus)
  - He noted that the area the PD serves is not completely contiguous and includes remote sites.
- UMPD Student Monitors Program: Serving since 1974 on the Twin Cities Campus
  - There are currently 49 student monitors that give assistance around the clock throughout the year.
- Newest UMPD Officers
- UMPD Effectiveness is Information and Partnership Driven
  - Information is shared with Minneapolis Police Department.
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
- Deployment/ Operational Drivers: Use of Technology to track Crime Trends and Patterns
  - 9-1-1 events are tracked weekly to evaluate patterns.
- Keeping Up With Neighborhood Trends: Where Students Live, Work, and Recreate
  - Minneapolis showed a 6% decrease in burglaries in 2012.
- Campus Neighborhood robbery Trends: 1997-2012
  - A member asked why there was a steep increase in robbery during 2005 and 2006. Chief Hestness explained that, in his opinion, crime increased

because the City experienced cuts to government aid and the number of officers was cut from 840 to 760 in that time period. He continued that the staff and PD support has been able to grow since that time.

- Robbery on October 27, 2012
  - During the Homecoming game, a student was robbed of his cell phone. The incident was recorded by public area video cameras. The suspects were arrested and the cell phone was recovered. The failure of the robbery was aided by public area video cameras that recorded the incident.
- Partnerships and Communication
- Crime Fighting and Outreach: UMPD Coordinated response Team (CRT)
  - Officers come together to identify emerging crime trends, such as bike theft. They have launched the “bike bait” project in which a bike is fitted with GPS and cameras to identify the perpetrators of bike theft. They also used a bait vehicle to deter theft in a Como area housing development.
- Connecting with Students: Perpetuating Stereotypes, Doughnuts, and Coffee
- Mental Health Emergencies: Risk Reduction Strategies
  - Officers are trained to respond to mental health crisis incidents. In the past year, the PD and Boynton have reported an increase in mental health crises.
- Active Shooter Campus Training
  - The incidents are rare, but the PD offers trainings for individual University departments.
- Behavioral Consultation Team (BCT)
- Resources Concerning faculty and Staff
- Mental Health Website
  - Chief Hestness emphasized that there are many resources offered to help students and staff that are experiencing mental health issues.
- A Few Words About Special Events
- A safe you is Safe U!
  - He summarized by reminding members to never be afraid to call 9-1-1.

In response to a question, Chief Hestness stated that the UMPD is preparing for the Light Rail and coordination with the Minneapolis PD will aid in any issues that may arise.

Ms. Holl asked about the work that is done with the coordinate campuses. Chief Hestness stated that trainings are conducted, security assessment, and meetings are held every spring to prioritize security projects.

Mr. Whyte commended the UMPD in their coordination with the Office of Student Affairs to ensure students receive the services that are available for safety and mental health issues.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL LITERACY SUMMARY DISCUSSION

Members revisited the topic of student financial literacy and the possibility of writing a statement in support of a pre-matriculation course. Mr. Whyte informed members that

the RFP process is currently underway to identify an online course that will educate and survey students regarding alcohol use, sexual assault, and financial literacy. The surveys that are included will provide the University with baseline data and information about the attitudes of the students before they are on campus. This will enable course and support service planning if needed. He continued to explain that the completion of the course would be an implied requirement. The goal is to have students complete the alcohol and sexual assault course before Welcome Week. The financial literacy course does not yet have an estimated time for completion.

Mr. Whyte explained methods that are being discussed for students to complete the financial literacy course. Many undergraduate programs have first year courses that are required and this could be the avenue through which the financial literacy course is delivered. This will involve coordinating with departments separately. Coordinate campuses will be included in the discussion, but it will be their decision to move forward and implement it. There will be continued effort to study and gather data to evaluate the effectiveness of the courses.

Mr. Whyte explained that the courses have shown there are benefits in the first semester after the course is taken, but they are not as prevalent in subsequent semesters. This course will not be credit based; therefore it will not impede graduation for those that do not complete it. Mr. Whyte offered to update the committee at the next meeting.

Members agreed that a resolution does not seem to be necessary, but a statement of support is possible.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Holl adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich  
University Senate Office